

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07  
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 H-01 /069 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5013  
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
USMISSION GENEVA

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USEEC

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY, USMTN ALSO FOR USMISSION

PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EAGR/FR  
SUBJECT: EC PROPOSAL FOR REGISTRATION OF SEED MULTIPLICA-  
TION CONTRACTS IN THIRD COUNTRIES

REF: STATE 015510 AND BRUSSELS 00299

SUMMARY: AT A MEETING WITH MR. SERPETTE, (BUREAU DES  
MOYENS DE PRODUCTION), MINAG GOF, ASST AGATT BROWNE AND  
FRENCH ECONOMIST ROUILLARD QUESTIONED MR. SERPETTE RE:  
REFTEL SUBJECT. HE SAID THERE WAS NO NEW CERTIFICATION  
PROCESS, ONLY AN EXTENSION OF THE CURRENT OECD CERTIFICA-  
TION SCHEME AND HE DID NOT SEE WHY THIS POSED A SERIOUS  
PROBLEM FOR THE UNITED STATES.

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1. WE BEGAN BY SAYING THAT WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THE EC  
WAS WORKING ON A NEW CERTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR THE MULTI-  
PLICATION OF SEEDS UNDER CONTRACT IN THIRD COUNTRIES.  
MR. SERPETTE SAID THAT THERE WAS NO NEW CERTIFICATION  
PROGRAM; THERE IS A CURRENT CERTIFICATION PROGRAM THAT  
HAS EXISTED FOR SEVERAL YEARS AND THAT FOR CORN THERE WAS  
A DEROGATION FOR A YEAR THAT ALLOWED FRENCH SEED IMPORT-

ERS TO IMPORT U.S. PRODUCED SEEDS WITH PRIVATE CERTIFICATES AND THAT THIS DEROGATION ENDED JANUARY 1, 1977. MR. SERPETTE EXPLAINED TO US THE SEED TRADE SYSTEM BETWEEN THE EC AND THE UNITED STATES, SHOWING US A LIST OF STATE CERTIFICATION AGENCIES. THIS SYSTEM IS REGULATED BY AN OECD SCHEME PLUS SOME SPECIFIC EC REGULATIONS SUCH AS THE CATALOG OF REGISTERED VARIETIES, THE THREE POINT CERTIFICATION TAG, I.E. GERMINATION RATE, SPECIES PURITY AND VARIETAL PURITY. HE FURTHER STATED THAT SEVERAL EUROPEAN SEED COMPANIES (MOSTLY DUTCH AND DANISH) HAD MULTIPLICATION FIELDS IN THIRD COUNTRIES. FOLLOWING OUR QUESTION ON ANY NEW PROJECTS UNDER STUDY, MR. SERPETTE MENTIONED THAT A NEW CERTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF SOME VARIETIES OF ALLOGAMIC SPECIES (GRASS, ETC.) WAS ACTUALLY BEING DISCUSSED. THIS SYSTEM REFERS TO POLYCROSS VARIETIES THAT CANNOT BE MAINTAINED OR STABILIZED IN EUROPE, BUT ONLY IN THIRD COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN. IN ORDER TO BE SURE THAT SUCH VARIETIES ARE WELL MAINTAINED IN THIRD COUNTRIES, EC AUTHORITIES CONTEMPLATE TO REQUIRE A CERTIFICATE DELIVERED BY AUTHORIZED SEED AGENCIES. THE U.S. DELEGATE TO THE EC ALREADY SUPPLIED IN OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER 1977 SUCH A LIST OF AGENCIES FOR THE UNITED STATES. WE FURTHER TRIED TO CLARIFY WHAT CHANGES WERE TAKING PLACE IN THE EC SEED CERTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR IMPORTED SEEDS. MR. SERPETTE SAID THERE WERE NO CHANGES EXCEPT THE ABOVE-MENTIONED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXTENSION OF THE CERTIFYING PROGRAM ALREADY BEING USED, WHICH IS BASED ON THE OECD SCHEME. HE SAID THAT THE FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES SUPPLIED A LIST OF AGENCIES TO BE AUTHORIZED FOR CERTIFICATION IMPLIED THE U.S. CONCURRENCE TO THE EXTENTION OF THE CURRENT CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.

2. A SUMMARY OF MR. SERPETTE'S REMARKS ARE THAT IN ALLOGAMIC SPECIES (MOSTLY GRASS SEEDS), SOME VARIETIES ARE PRODUCED IN THIRD COUNTRIES UNDER POLYCROSS SYSTEM (I.E. SEVERAL VARIETIES IN ONE PROTECTED FIELD WHICH AFTER SEVERAL GERMINATIONS GIVES A STABLE VARIETY). THESE SEEDS ARE ACCEPTED IN THE EC BUT CANNOT BE MAINTAINED IN EUROPE BECAUSE SELECTION MAINTENANCE DEPENDS ON LOCAL CONDITIONS. THUS THE EC WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN FROM THIRD COUNTRIES A CERTIFICATION SYSTEM WHICH WOULD GUARANTY THAT SEED AUTHORIZED AGENCIES CONTROL MAINTENANCE OF SUCH VARIETIES.

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS OR CLARIFICATION ON PROBLEMS TO THE UNITED STATES CAUSED BY SUBJECT.  
HARTMAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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